IN THE CLAIMS:

1.   A user interface system comprising:

(Element A) a directional input unit having an operating member usable to make a directional input and unusable to make a rotational input by a user, the directional input unit being operable to receive at a point in time an input specifying one of at least three different directions, in 5   response to a user operation of touching the operating member;

(Element B) a calculating unit operable to calculate an amount of change from a first direction to a second direction, when the directional input unit receives an input specifying the first direction followed within a predetermined time period by an input specifying the second direction;

10   (Element C) a judging unit operable to judge whether the calculated amount of change falls within a predetermined range; and

(Element D) a processing unit operable to perform a first process associated with each of the first and second directions when the judging unit judges negatively, and perform a second process associated with the amount of change when the judging unit judges affirmatively.